

October 2010 Weather Summary

October was generally characterized by warmer than average temperatures and below average precipitation across much of southcentral Alaska. However, local weather conditions in Seward were somewhat of an exception. The month began with a four-day storm that pummeled Seward with almost seven inches of rain. Winds exceeding 90 mph were documented on the eastern coast of the Kenai Peninsula. Milder conditions during the rest of the month resulted in pretty “normal” monthly weather tallies for Seward.

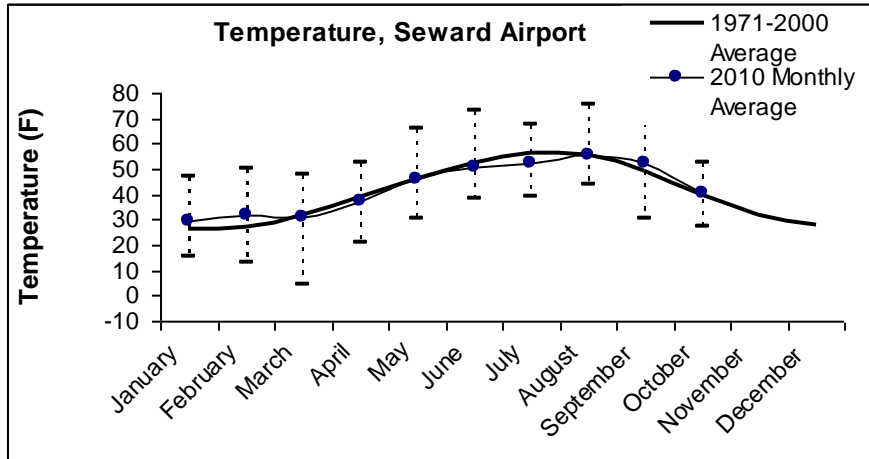
As measured at the Seward airport weather station, October's average temperature near Kenai Fjords NP was 40.4 degrees F (0.6 degrees F above the 30-year average October temperature). Total rainfall for October was 9.81 inches, a surprisingly exact tie with the 30-year average for this month. October 5th was the warmest day of the month, with a high of 52 degrees F; October 30th was the coldest day with a low of 27 degrees F.

Also of note:

- Arctic Sea Ice Minimum for 2010, the third lowest on satellite record – NASA Earth Observatory: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=46282>
- Susitna Glacier, Alaska...evidence of glacier movement – NASA Earth Observatory: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=46449>
- Another Winter of Extremes in Store for U.S. as La Niña Strengthens (including cool weather in Alaska) – NOAA: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101021_winteroutlook.html
- How warm was summer 2010? A global review - NASA: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=46159>
- U.S. Climate Change Science Program describes impacts to Alaska in a 2009 [report](#).
- An animated time series of temperature for Alaska illustrates the progression of cold and warm spells experienced in October: http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/asos.php?map_type=avgtemp.dfn&format=.cont&begmonth=10&begday=1&endmonth=10&endday=31&years%5B%5D=2010&submitted=Animate+Selection
- The National Weather Service's one month weather outlook (November 2010) is for equal chances of above, near, or below median temperatures and levels of precipitation. The three month outlook (November-December-January 2010-11) is for below average temperatures and equal chances for below, near, and above average precipitation over central and southern Alaska. La Niña conditions are expected to continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2010-2011. <http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/>
- NOAA climate services portal serves as a single point-of-entry for NOAA's extensive climate information, data, products, services, and the climate science magazine *ClimateWatch* . <http://www.climate.gov/>
- Additional, detailed climate information is available from the UAF Alaska Climate Research Center monthly state-wide summaries http://akclimate.org/Summary/current_sum.html

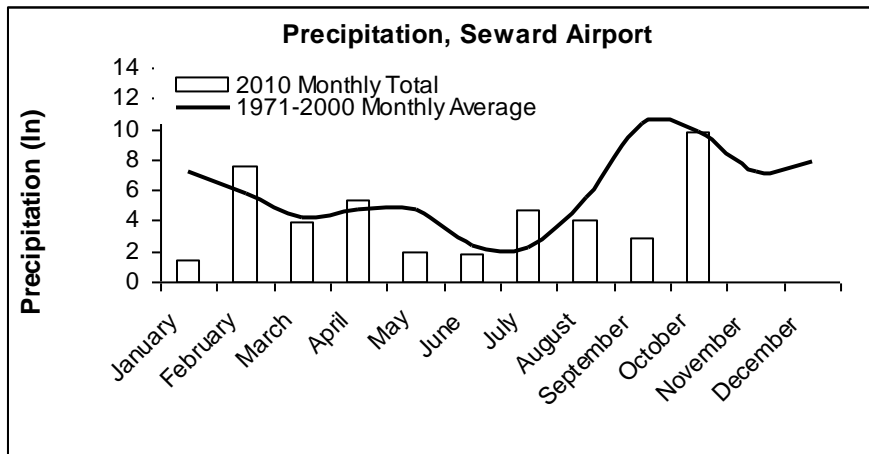
Read more to find out about the local climate for October 2010

Seward Airport Temperature, 2010 (station #26438)



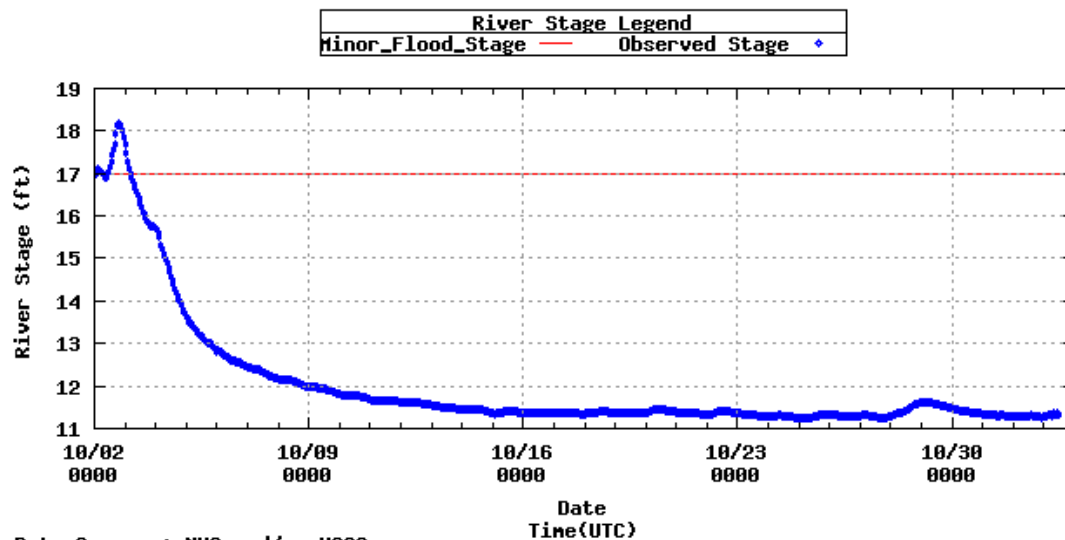
Monthly temperature (F) at Seward airport. 1971-2000. Average is 30-year climate normal. 2010 Monthly average values are shown with thin solid line. The range of maximum and minimum daily temperatures for each month are shown with dashed vertical lines.

Seward Airport Precipitation, 2010



Monthly precipitation (inches) at Seward airport. 1971-2000 monthly average is 30-year climate normal.

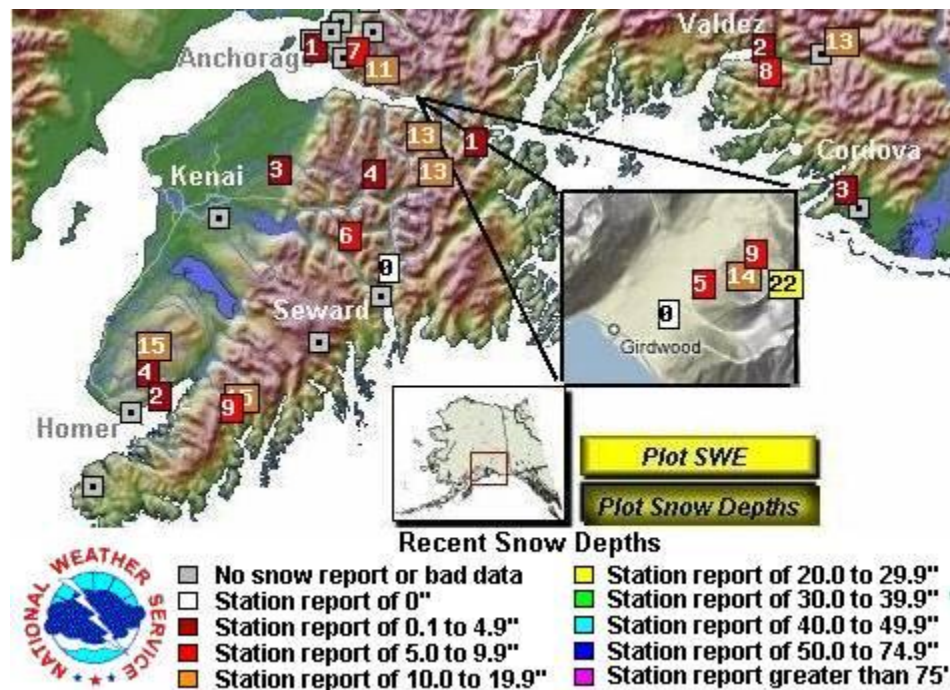
Rivers



Resurrection River at Exit Glacier Bridge is monitored by the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=paqc>. The Resurrection River stage height is currently well below the flood action stage.

Exit Creek water level (stage height) data was no longer collected in October.

Snow & Ice



Snow depths reported across southcentral Alaska on Nov. 2: http://aprfc.arh.noaa.gov/sd_pafc_sites.html. Snow is monitored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.ambcs.org/> with most measurements and reporting take place December to May.

Weather Station data (map of [some] stations [Western Region Climate Center](#) or [MesoWest](#))

[Seward Airport](#)
[Seward Hwy MP#12](#)
[Grouse Crk Divide](#)
[Exit Glacier](#)
[Harding Icefield](#)
[McArthur Pass](#)
[Nuka Glacier](#)
[Pilot Rock](#)
[Buoy 76-Cape Cleare](#)

Weather Forecasts

[Seward Summary](#)
[Marine Forecast](#)
[Surface Map](#)
[Graphical Forecast](#)
[4-8 Day Forecast](#)